

Organizers

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Jimmy Fox

Hello, I'm Jimmy Fox, I also go by the name Negoo, which was given to me by my good friend Traditional Chief Paul Williams Sr. of Beaver, AK. I spent most of my youth enjoying the outdoors with my Dad and Grandfather. We did a lot of gardening, gathering firewood, hunting, fishing, trapping and exploring the hills and swamps of southeast Missouri – the ancestral lands of the Chickasaw people. I graduated from college with a degree in wildlife management with a focus on restoring drained wetlands for waterfowl. My work in conservation spans 30 years with the last 21 in northern AK. In 2019, I returned to Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge as the manager, with an understanding that climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution threaten both Nature and humans. My aspirations are to help fish and wildlife, and support people—especially those that need the Flats and those working to understand this place. To do this work at this moment in time is an incredible honor.



Lisa Saperstein

I came to Alaska in 1989 to work on my Master's degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks on caribou winter use of burned tundra on the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). From 1993 – 2009 I worked as a wildlife biologist for FWS at Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge Complex, Yukon Delta NWR, and Kanuti NWR. I continued to work on fire ecology projects during that time and accepted the position of regional fire ecologist based in Anchorage in 2010. Current activities and interests include burn severity, fire effects on vegetation and wildlife in boreal and tundra ecosystems, fuel treatment planning and monitoring, fire behavior modeling, and integrating the effects of climate change and fire into refuge management.



University of Alaska Fairbanks

Zav Grabinski

Originally from Fairbanks Alaska, Zav received a masters in natural resources from Humboldt State University. His background includes geospatial and visual modeling of fire interactions on landscapes, regional-scale data analysis of drought impacts on forests, and website development and design. Currently, Zav is interested in communicating complex biophysical processes to diverse audiences using easy to interpret visualizations and media.



Abigail Hicks

Abigail Hicks is a Master's student in the Natural Resources and Environment Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She is designing her Master's thesis around the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge Fire Management Workshop analyzing its effectiveness and key findings.



Margaret Rudolf

Margaret Rudolf is co-facilitating this work. She is an interdisciplinary Ph.D. student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks studying co-production of knowledge and collaboration with Alaska Native communities on climate change research. Her background is in civil engineering and permafrost with future career interests in sustainability, resilience, and climate change adaptation.



Alison York

Alison York is the coordinator for the Alaska Fire Science Consortium (AFSC) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). AFSC works directly with Alaska's wildland fire managers to support their decisions with the best available science. Alison has lived in Alaska since 1986. She has been working with scientists and managers to understand and address the impacts of environmental change in high latitude systems since 1997.



Alaska Conservation Foundation: Northern Latitudes Partnerships

Leanna Heffner

Leanna holds a PhD from University of Rhode Island in Oceanography where she worked with other scientists, coastal managers, and community members to develop solutions to watershed pollution and climate change adaptation. For her post-doctoral work, Leanna was part of an interdisciplinary team of designers, engineers, and scientists at Louisiana State University's Coastal Sustainability Studio tackling the land loss crisis on the Mississippi River Delta. Leanna stepped into her role as the Northwest Boreal Partnership Director in 2018, and has immensely enjoyed her work with a wonderful group of partners across interior and southcentral Alaska, the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and northern British Columbia.



Sijo Smith

Sijo is the communications coordinator for the Northern Latitudes Partnerships, a collaboration of three regional partnerships in Alaska and western Canada. Originally from Chugiak, Alaska, she joined the partnership in January 2021. After receiving a BS from Stanford University, she is thrilled to be refocusing her energy on the rapidly changing landscapes of Alaska and their unique challenges.

